

Learning Languages newsletter

Issue 4 | Term 4 | October 2009

Ko tōu reo, ko tōku reo, te tuakiri tangata

Tihei uriuri, tihei nakonako

Your voice and my voice, are expressions of identity

May our descendants live on and our hopes be fulfilled

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back. Term 4 is a busy and exciting time for both teachers and students as the culmination of a year's work comes to an end. This newsletter contains information relevant to teachers of all languages in New Zealand. Please share it with other teachers of languages in your school.

Samoa tsunami

Our thoughts and best wishes are with all the families who have been affected by the tsunami in Samoa and Tonga. Many students will face tragic personal circumstances that may have very adverse consequences for their studies. Please remember that these students will need extra support and to seek your school's senior managers' advice to ensure students are not disadvantaged due to personal circumstances.

Learning Language series DVD

The Year 7 and Year 8 Learning Language Series videos have now been converted to DVD. To order you copy please contact *Down the Back of the Chair* 0800 660 662 Fax: 0800 660 663 email: orders@thechair.minedu.govt.nz

Use these order numbers:

French DVD – Oui - item number 11431

Japanese DVD – Hai - item number 11429

Spanish DVD – Si - item number 11432

German DVD - Ja item number 11430

Chinese DVD - not yet available

DVD to support Learning Languages Y6 – Y10

Filming has begun in two of the seven classes, which will be featured on a DVD to support the teaching of languages in years 6-10. The DVD is intended to support primary school teachers who may be learning the language along with their students. It will feature authentic classroom examples of how teachers can ensure an evidenced-based and principle-driven approach to learning languages, through the use of a variety of practical and engaging classroom strategies. The DVD is due for distribution to schools early in 2010. <http://www.cognition.co.nz/>

Events coming up

Years 7 & 8 Establishing and Maintaining a Language Programme

When: Monday, 2 November 9am-3pm

Venue: Kohia Education Centre, Auckland

This course is designed for teachers with little or no previous language teaching experience, who wish to implement and manage quality learning languages programmes in their classrooms.

Contact:

Dawn Nurelli d.nurelli@auckland.ac.nz

Communication in Learning Languages Workshop

When: Friday 20 November 9am-3pm

Venue: Kohia Education Centre, Auckland

Teachers of all levels will explore and develop a range strategies and tools that will assist them to focus on communication, the core stand of Learning Languages by providing meaningful opportunities for students to learn and use the language.

Contact:

Glenda Koefoed g.koefoed@auckland.ac.nz

South Auckland Cluster Meeting

When: Monday 16 November 4pm –6pm

Venue: Tangaroa College

This cluster meeting will focus on planning and implications for 2010 Learning Languages in the New Zealand Curriculum. All teachers of all languages are welcome.

Contact

Glenda Koefoed g.koefoed@auckland.ac.nz

Inside this issue:

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NZQA, NCEA and Managing Study

On 13 October, an important NZQA Assessment Matters circular (A2009/034) *Instructions in 2009 Languages Examination Booklets* was sent to schools. Teachers of NCEA need to be familiar with the changes and can access the circular at: www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars

Start to prepare your planning for 2010 by collating evidence to inform your decisions and develop courses that meet the needs of your students. NZQA has developed a Secondary Schools Statistics page to compare school statistics, analyse student performance by ethnicity, gender and school decile, guide HOD's departmental analysis and reporting planning and help teachers to understand the statistical analysis terms, reports and limitations.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications/ssq/statistics/index.html>

Two new guides were released by NZQA in Term 3 that contain NCEA information which all teachers should be familiar with. *Understanding NCEA* is for students new to NCEA and for parents/guardians, so they understand how NCEA works. *Making Use of NCEA* is written for senior students to remind them of University Entrance requirements, and points them to sources of useful information. PDF copies can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/news/whats-new/index.html>

With the countdown to NCEA External examinations started, students should begin to identify their needs, set goals and plan their study schedules. Learning to manage study routines is an important skill for the future. Studyit is an online learning environment for NCEA designed with input from secondary students. It contains information for achievement standards, study tips and encouragement advice. It does not have a Learning Languages page. However, students can use the forum to discuss issues with other students and send specific questions expert teachers by email.

<http://www.studyit.org.nz/>

NCEA Standards alignment pages - draft materials

The development of standards and assessment resources is an iterative process. The page will contain all the draft standards and assessment resources as they are developed. As the project refines the drafts, updated materials will be placed here for teachers and schools to view and use as planning tools for implementation.

<http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/languages.php>

Support for Middle Managers

The site is for middle managers for all learning areas and contains a wealth of information and activities that you can use with teachers in your department to explore effective pedagogy within the context of Learning Languages. Here are examples that focus on student voice that you can in your department:

- Look at the questions in the [student views](#) section. Then find out what students think by searching for their responses in the [findings section](#).
- View [presentations](#) by students and teachers explaining aspects of their digital lives.
- View a case study about [responding to student voice](#) <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Support-for-secondary-middle-managers>

Term 4 e-tip

Are you sick of sending URLs which are too long? By entering in a URL, <http://tinyurl.com/> will create a tiny URL that will never expires.

Turn this: http://rover.ebay.com/rover/1/711-53200-192550/1?type=3&campid=5336224516&toolid=10001&customid=ti_nyhp&ext=unicycle&satile=unicycle

Into: <http://tinyurl.com/unicycles>

Northland Literacy and Learning Languages Workshop – Strategies for Teaching and Assessment

When: Tuesday 17 November 9am – 3pm
Venue: Tai Tokerau Education Centre

Presented by Dee and Lyn, this active and practical workshop will investigate activities and approaches associated with a literacy approach to language learning that gives learners the opportunity to understand conventions, to use language and reflect on language use, and to develop cultural awareness. Course participants will acquire a repertoire of literacy and thinking tools.

To register contact:

Tai Tokerau Education Centre
ttec@auckland.ac.nz

Northland 'Starting Off' Cluster Meeting Years 7 – 10

When: Wednesday 11 November 4pm – 6pm
Venue: Tai Tokerau Education Centre

This cluster meeting is for language teachers starting new programmes in 2010 and for those who are looking for new activities and resources, including some that are available online. Teachers are encouraged to bring along one or two of their own favourite activities to share. We will also look at strategies and support resources to incorporate NZ Sign Language into the second language classroom. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with other teachers in the Learning Languages Community. Everyone welcome.

RSVP:

Dee Edwards de.edwards@auckland.ac.nz

Useful resources

NZ curriculum related sites

http://secondary.tki.org.nz/learning_languages - Learning Languages in The New Zealand Curriculum sets the direction for learning languages other than English in English-medium schools.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/resources/languages/sample-papers.html> - Sample Exam Papers for 2009 external examination.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/> - Welcome to the Ministry of Education website for The New Zealand Curriculum.

<http://keycompetencies.tki.org.nz/> - this new website, designed to support you as teachers and curriculum leaders to introduce the key competencies in the New Zealand Curriculum.

<http://softwareforlearning.tki.org.nz/> - The Software for Learning website is a ministry site that informs and supports teachers to select and integrate software as part of a rich learning environment. It lists quality software recommended by New Zealand teachers for use in schools and includes social software, freeware and non-freeware as well as links to samples of student digital work.

A bilingual puppet show

Carousel Theatre will be touring New Zealand from 3 May to 28 May 2010 (Term 2). *Sinbad and the Enchanted Horse* can be presented in French, German, Italian or entirely in English and is suitable for all levels as the language can be adapted. For bookings contact John via email enquiries@carrousel.com.au or call +613 9620 7349 Details including teacher resources can be found at <http://www.carrousel.com.au/>

Teachers as learners: Improving outcomes for Māori and Pasifika students through inquiry

Explore learning materials aimed at teachers, school leaders, and other people in education. The purpose of the materials is to illustrate how teachers have used an inquiry approach in their practice to become more culturally responsive thereby improving outcomes for Māori and Pasifika students. Stories featured are from experienced and new teachers.

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Digital-stories/Case-studies/Inquiry>

The Pasifika Education Centre (Otahuhu)

The Pasifika Education Centre is intended to provide resources and opportunities reflective of Pasifika cultural values for Pacific peoples to achieve educational success. For all resources, information about free language courses, adult community education and more, please check out this link: <http://www.pec.ac.nz/>

Career Pathways in Learning Languages

"As technology and information continue to advance and career pathways grow more complex, the ability to respond to shifting circumstances in life and work is becoming increasingly important. Focus on the Future, published by the Government of Manitoba, Canada, defines career as the "combined total of a person's lifelong experiences including his/her education, different jobs, family life, friendships, community activities, and leisure choices". Evidence shows that incorporating quality career education into students' learning improves engagement, achievement, and transition from school to work or further learning."

From: http://secondary.tki.org.nz/learning_languages

Students must make the link between the skills they are acquiring in Learning Languages and the benefits to any career. Through the [Digital Pathways Development Project](#) facilitated by Marc Dashper and Nicola Riley, Dawn Jarbeau presented activities to incorporate careers in Learning Languages using resources which all schools have access to such as Kiwi Cards, or PPTA Curriculum resources for Spanish. The sustainability of our learning area depends on students developing an understanding around effective communication skills which learning an additional language provides. The presentation including all the resources are available on line for you to view and download at: <http://tinyurl.com/digitalpathwaysdevelopment>

You must log in using this temporary login/password: **DPD / exciting**

See your careers advisors for more information regarding the DPD project or for further information contact Mark by email: m.dashper@auckland.ac.nz or Nicola n.riley@auckland.ac.nz

Ko taku reo taku mapihi mauria
My language is the window to my soul

Sites to help integrate e-learning

Please explore these sites and analyse them for yourself before enabling them. They can provide students with the ability to embed the content they create into other third party sites like wikis, giving the students an authentic audience to engage with.

<http://www.vocaroo.com> This is an online audio recording facility. It's simple to use and no software to download.

<http://www.boxoftricks.net/> - An excellent site established by a modern languages teacher at Nottingham High School who believes fervently in making education compatible with the needs and expectations of students.

<http://www.wikispaces.com/> - Free wikis for Everyone.

<http://gettingtrickywithwikis.wikispaces.com/> - Make your wiki stand out with this great wiki that helps you organise & layout your pages effectively.

<http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/> - Organised by New Zealand e-learning facilitator Lenva Shearing. She has organised and listed many useful web 2.0 tools for presentations, collaborative project, video, image and audio tools, writing, drawing and graphing tools and many more.

<http://www.widgetbox.com/> - A site to find and make web widgets to embed in your websites.

<http://twitter.com/> - Twitter is a service to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of frequent messages.

<http://www.wordle.net/> - Wordle is a toy for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently.

<http://www.teachers.tv/about> - Through engaging videos, practical resources, Teachers TV supports the professional development of anyone working in school, enabling them to widen their skills and develop their practice

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